Solace and comfort for the bereaved

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A transcription of a talk given by Hazrat Moulana Abbas Sarigat Saheb Db of Darul Uloom Zakariyya at the Rainbow Masjid to give solace and comfort to the bereaved.

After the Khutbah:

فاصبر كما صبر اولوا العزم من الرسل ولا تستعجل لهم الخ...
يا أيها الذين آمنوا استعينوا بالصبر والصلاة الخ...
ان الله مع الصابرين.

The world over is gripped with the virus (& chaos), Lenasia and surrounding areas are currently affected as well.

I wish to share with you a few incidents that is mentioned in some books to provide solace Insha-Allah.

May it provide comfort – the three Kitaabs referred to are:

صور من حياة التابعين; a second book authored by استاذ على طنطاوى - who hails originally from Cairo and passed away in Jeddah in 1999 and the third one of

شيخ محمد - المختار من فرائض النكور و الاخبار - who hails originally from Syria and currently resides in Istanbul, Turkey.

The first incident is that of Hazrat Urwa Bin Zubair (Radhiallahu Anhu) the grandson of Hazrat Abu Bakr

(Radhiallahu Anhu) and the son of Hazrat Asma bint Abu Bakr (Radhiallahu Anha).

Hazrat Asma (Radhiallahu Anha) and Hazrat Ayesha Siddeeqah (Radhiallahu Anha) are sisters with a common father and different mothers. Hazrat Ayesha (Radhiallahu Anha)'s mother had embraced Islam but Asma (Radhiallahu Anha)'s mother did not embrace Islam.

Ayesha (Radhiallahu Anha) lived with Rasulullah (Sallallāhu Alayhi Wasallam) for 9 years before his demise but did not have children. She moved in with Rasulullah (Sallallāhu Alayhi Wasallam) in the 2nd year after Hijrah and Rasulullah (Sallallāhu Alayhi Wasallam) had passed away in the 11th year after Hijrih. Thus they stayed together for 9 years.

In the 27th year after Hijrah - 16 years after the demise of Rasulullah (Sallallāhu Alayhi Wasallam) - Hazrat Urwah Bin Zubair (RA) was born. He was therefore a Tabi'ie i.e. he saw the Sahabah (RA).

When he was 6 years of age Hazrat Ayesha (RA) requested that he stay with her so that she could share her knowledge acquired from Rasulullah (Sallallāhu Alayhi Wasallam) with him. He is her nephew and there was no need for Pardah. The position of the maternal aunt is – الخالة بمنزلة الام - 'The maternal aunt comes in the position of the mother'.

Urwah (RA) moved in with Hazrat Ayesha (RA) in the 35th year after Hijrah. Hazrat Ayesha (RA) passed away in the 57th year after Hijrah – she lived for 47 years after Rasulullah

(Sallallāhu Alayhi Wasallam) demise. Abu Hurairah (RA) had performed her Janazah Salaah and Hazrat Ayesha (RA) was buried in Jannatul Baqi.

Urwah(RA) moved in with Hazrat Ayesha(RA) in the year 35AH. He therefore stayed with his aunt for 22 to 25 years. He learnt much from her. In Kitaabul Munaasik numerous Ahadeeth are recorded as “Urwah, from Ayesha”.

After her demise he became well-known for having studied under Hazrat Ayesha (RA). He was responsible for forming the Council of Muftis known as المقهى مجمع which comprised of the 7 great scholars of Madina Munawwarah. Hazrat Urwah bin Zubair (RA) became very famous in Madina and the entire Hijaz area. He studied for 25 years under his aunt and can be likened to having graduated from Darul Uloom Deoband or any other leading institute. This was during the Banu Umayyad Khilafah.

The Umayyad period begins from Hazrat Muaawiyah (RA) in the 41st year of Hijrah and ends in 132 after Hijrah. Muaawiyah (RA) was the first ruler of the Banu Ummayyah, than Yazeed (RA), then Muaawiyah (RA), then Marwaan (RA) for 9 months, then Abdul Malik bin Marwaan (RA), then Walid bin Abdul Malik (RA), then Sulayman bin Abdul Malik (RA), and finally Umar bin Abdul Aziz (RA) which concludes 100 years.

Walid bin Abdul Malik (RA) had great love for the Ulama and would build ties of friendship and relations with them. In South Africa there are people that have always shown an

attachment and connection with the Ulama of other regions by inviting/hosting and benefitting from them.

When Walid the governor of Damascus heard of Urwah (RA)'s prominence he invited Urwah (RA), requesting him to afford him and the people of Damascus to benefit from him. The Muslim population at the time was close to 500 000.

The Damascus Masjid alone had a capacity of 50 000 people which was built by Abdul Malik bin Marwaan. Urwah bin Zubair (RA) undertook the journey with his 2 sons.

Walid bin Abdul Malik made the necessary arrangements for his arrival and went out of town to receive him personally, befitting a royal reception. He hosted him in the Kings Palace and Daily discourses would be held on Hadith, Qur'an and Fiqh. All the senior Muftis of Damascus attended his discourses to benefit from him.

After a week Walid offered to take him around Damascus and brief him of his activities. Amongst other things, he took him to see his horses and offered him to ride them. Urwah (RA) declined the offer, stating that he was a man of books.

However his son was keen to ride. In Madina they rode camels and were not used to riding horses. At full gallop the youngster was unable to control the animal. It is well known that the owner/master knows his car better, likewise the horse also knows his rider. In this case being a novice he fell head first and passed away.

Urwah bin Zubair immediately read the following verse
نصبا هذا سفرنا من لقينا لقد. “I experienced difficulty on this journey.”

The young boy fell and passed away immediately, his only response was the above. Walid bin Abdul Malik was very saddened. However Urwah (R.A.) said - الله بقضاء رضينا 'We are happy with Allah’s decision'
وشره خيره والقدر 'It is Allah’s decision and Taqdeer'.

Sheikh Saadi (RA) the poet said – 2 things take people from one place to another – Maut (death) and Rizq (sustenance).

In Kimberly in Northern Cape where I visit every Ramadhaan for the last 31 years, I had a friend originally from Ankleshwar who called me this year before leaving for India to attend to his aged parents who were not keeping well. Brother Ismail had for 30 years taken me for tea after the Taraweeh Salaah, this year he said his son would be keen to host me for tea while he is away to India. Ismail Bhai called requesting for Dua before departing and to speak of the arrangements he had made for me.

'Sustenance and death drags a person from one place to another'.

On the 10th of Ramadaan he phoned to say that he himself has now become sick, he is going to the nearby village where there is electricity and the facilities are better. On the 23rd I received a call to say that Ismail bhai has passed away. Let's ponder for a moment what was the purpose for his going and what was the result.

Urwah bin Zubair (RA) did the Ghusl preparations for his son, he personally gave the Ghusl and put on the Kafn. He performed the Janazah himself and lowered his son into the grave himself.

When throwing sand in the grave it is mentioned in the book:

التابعين حياة من صور
'رجله فى الأكلت اكلت'

A poisonous insect bit him in his leg which immediately became black and infected. Walid called upon his doctor who tied a stiff clot below the knee to prevent the poison from spreading. All the Hakims were unanimous that Urwah (R.A) leg will have to be amputated. Walid broke the news to Urwah himself. His instant reply was: “I am happy with Allah’s decision”.

He said “Allah has given me 4 sons and took away, likewise Allah had given him 2 hands and 2 legs and he took away 1 leg.

واحد واخذ ثلاثا لى وابقى

It is amazing how the pious ponder when afflicted.

In preparation for the operation boiling oil and a glass of wine was brought to serve as anaesthetic. Urwah (RA) remarked:

يجتمعان لا والقرآن الخمر ان

“Wine and the Qur’an cannot be diluted”

Walid did not understand the comment. Urwah (RA) explained that he recited 7 ½ chapters of the Quran every morning and the same every evening. How could he allow liquor on this tongue of his which recites 15 Juz a day.

Walid then asked, how will we then do the operation? He replied

لكم دينكم ولي دين

Go ahead and do what you have to do and I will do what I have to do, meaning you go ahead and do the operation and I will recite the Qur’ān which will give me strength.

They started the operation and when they came to the bone, they struck it hard which caused him to fall unconscious for 4 hours. On regaining consciousness he asked

اين رجلى المقطوعة - Where is my amputated leg?

(Every part of the body is sacred, we should discard our nails in a respectable manner away from public pathways and sights. Ladies hair often falls off, make it a point of burying it or throwing it in flowing water.)

The leg was presented to him – he raised it to his forehead and addressed it saying that 'you have been separated from me, but please give testimony in my favour on the day of Qiyamah, that I did not take you to any place of vice and sin'.]

الذنب مكان إلى بك مشيت ما

“I express shukr that I did not use you, go with you or take you to any place of vice and sin.”

A great lesson to be learnt indeed from the above.

“Now bury this leg of mine with my son”

Later, Urwah explained, that his bigger regret was that he was unable to complete his dedicated portion of the Qur’an for the day due to being unconscious.

As believers we should advise people to adobt Sabr and not lose hope.

Muaaz (Radhiallaahu Anhu)'s first wife passed away and soon thereafter his second wife had passed away – it is mentioned in a Kitaab:

المتزوجات و المتزوجين قصص

Muaaz (Radhiallaahu Anhu) was just and fair in dealing with his wives. So he drew lots as to who to start with in giving Ghusl and burial. When he returned from burying his wives, his son was on his last and soon thereafter passed away. After completing his son’s burial, his own finger started bleeding.

Mufti Taqi Sahib Db mentions this in جهان ديداه from Tabaqaat ibne Saad طبقات ابن سعاد . He informed his household that his time had come to which his family was surprised. He

explained that Rasulullah (Sallallāhu Alayhi Wasallam) told him that when your finger starts bleeding, know, that it will take you into your last. He prepared for his departure thereafter and breathed his last.

When Hazrat Umar(RA) was attacked and he was asked, who should succeed him. He cried and exclaimed:

حيا عبيدة أبو كان لو حيا، معاذ كان لو

If Muaaz and Abu Ubaidah bin Jarrah were alive I would not have hesitated. Both had predeceased Hazrat Umar (RA). He was certain of their capabilities. He nonetheless presented 6 names from which to choose.

Hazrat Muaaz subsequently made Wudhu, performed 2 rakaats Salaah, recited the Kalimah, layed on his side and breathed his last. In one day 4 members from one house had passed on!

In 589 A.H. Salahudeen (R.A.) had passed away. It was the month of Safar on a Wednesday after the Fajr Salaah. He was an العادل الملك , a just leader”. He passed away whilst reciting the “الحسنى اسماء” the 99 names of Allah. After his demise a plague broke out in Egypt in which 200 000 people passed away in one month.

Such conditions have prevailed previously as well around the globe.

We therefore should constantly ask for Aafiyah and may we and our families not be tested. May Allah take us with Imaan.

For a believer there is no room for despondency or disappointment.

Continue making Duaa and never lose hope. Remain strong, positive and motivated. Give Sadaqah and encourage the family at home to make Zikr. Rise early and make it a point of performing the Tahajjud Salaah.

Imaan Ash Shaafi (RA) would say:

سهام الليل لا يخطئ

“The arrow shot at night doesn’t miss its target”.

Make Duaa, since it is accepted at that time.

Imaam Bukhari (RA)'s mother would rise at Tahajjud and cry: “Oh Allah! You’ve given me a handsome child but he is unable to see’.

She would put him on the floor next to her and say while pointing at him:

“Oh Allah you have given light to the moon, you have given light to the sun, you have given snakes and animals of prey light in their eyes, is there a shortage of light for my little baby”.

While saying the above she fell asleep in which she sees that there's a knock at the door and when attending to it, it

turned out to be Hazrat Ebrahim (Allaihis Salaam) who was enquiring of the whereabouts of the child.

He places his hand on the child's face and leaves. In the morning the child is found running around the house telling his mother that there was a special hand that touched me at night which resulted in the restoration of my eyesight.

Imaan Bukhari (R.A.) wrote 2 Kitaabs in the light of the moon and stars in the courtyard of Medinah Munawwarah namely: Taareekh Kabir and Taareekh Sageer. He could see equally well at night as a normal person could see in the day. The light in his eyes were restored through the Duaa of Tahajjud.

Therefore encourage the womenfolk to make Duaa especially at the time of Tahajjud.

Wa-Aakhiru Dawana Anil Hamdulillahi Rabbil Aalameen